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made out by any one, who chooses to look with microscopic eye at any work of philological disquisition ; and yet these mistakes may have a scarcely perceptible effect upon the substantial value of the book. But several of the errors of interpretation that we have pointed out, in the notes upon this tragedy, seem to us of a different description, and to merit consideration ; though we repeat, that on the whole, we regard it as a valuable addition to our means of classical instruction.

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10. — *Speech in Behalf of the University of Nashville, delivered on the Day of the Anniversary Commencement, October 4th, 1837.* By PHILIP LINDSLEY.

THIS is one of the most truth-telling and amusing speeches we have ever had from the great West. It is an upright and downright defence of University systems in general, and the Nashville University in particular. Mr. Lindsley talks to the westerners in their own free and bold fashion, and we venture to say they like him all the better for it. He tells them, in a style bordering on conversational plainness, as many truths as they can digest before another commencement, on all the great topics of liberal education ; and scatters, with the breath of a most searching ridicule, the prejudices and absurdities with which, it seems, Nashville, like some other cities, is overflowing, in relation to the University. There are those, we doubt not, who have been shy of the University, ever since the last anniversary. The benefits of scholarship, the advantages held out by Universities, the causes why so many young men fail to make the best use of them, and the remedies which ought to be applied to existing defects, are discussed with thorough knowledge, a fearless spirit, and uncompromising independence.

We notice, in passing, the following remarks. “ Both Harvard and Yale usually employ six or eight tutors, according to the actual number of students, averaging commonly between two and three hundred. These perform all the drudgery of elementary drilling, and attend the daily routine of recitations in the classroom ; *while the professors read lectures, and maintain the dignity of science and of the Senatus Academicus.*” Now the worthy President must have been dreaming of some University in the fabled Atlantis, in the isles of the Blest, or perchance in Nephelococcygia, when he uttered that last sentence. Such a professor would be worth travelling a hundred miles to see. Sure we are, that he cannot be found in New England. Our naturalists have

no such class, and would not know what to do with him, or where to arrange him. Such beings, we are told, have been, but they are no more. *Famam tantum accepimus*. They are the Ichthyosauri and Megatheria of our academical antiquities.

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11. — *The American Almanac and Repository of Useful Knowledge, for the Year 1838.* Boston. Charles Bowen. pp. xii., 336.

THIS important annual has now reached its ninth volume; and every succeeding year has added to its value, and to its general credit and reputation. The astronomical department of the work, under the charge of Mr. Paine, is unsurpassed, either in scientific accuracy, or practical usefulness, by any of the European publications of the same nature; and the miscellaneous department, prepared by Mr. Worcester, contains a mass of statistical information, of indispensable daily use, which no other book affords, and much of which would otherwise be wholly inaccessible to the community at large. We trust the work will continue to receive the extended public patronage, which it so richly merits.

In addition to this brief notice of the Almanac itself, we wish to call the attention of our readers to a suggestion in the Preface, which we regard as an interesting one.

“In conducting this work,” says the Editor, “we have frequently found it impossible to procure the information wanted. The statistics of the whole country can never be collected by one individual, nor by a society formed for the purpose. If the work is ever accomplished in a suitable manner, it must be done under the direction of the government of the United States. And, if the national government should connect this object with the taking of the next census, the design would certainly commend itself to every man of enlightened views; and it would redound to the lasting honor of the administration that should first introduce the system.”

We heartily concur with the Editor in the opinion that a vast deal of statistical matter, highly interesting and useful to the whole country, might be well collected under the authority of the Federal Government, in association with the usual census of the United States; and we sincerely hope this object may, at the proper time, engage the attention of Congress.

An undertaking of this kind has, indeed, already been proposed to that body, as a distinct measure, on its own particular merits, by Professor Lieber, of South Carolina. His Memorial on the subject, presented to the Senate of the United States, at